

REMARKS

I. Introduction

Claims 1 to 8 are now pending in the present application. In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are allowable, and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Applicants note with appreciation the acknowledgment of the claim for foreign priority. As regards the certified copy of the priority document, the Examiner will note that enclosed herewith is a certified copy of German Application No. 101 07 833.1, to which the present application claims foreign priority. Acknowledgment of receipt of the certified copy of the priority document in the next Office communication is respectfully requested.

II. Rejection of Claims 1 to 8 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 1 to 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,567,335 ("Norman et al."). Applicants respectfully submit that Norman et al. do not anticipate claims 1 to 8 for at least the following reasons.

Claims 1 and 5, as amended herein without prejudice, recite that a first buffer memory and/or a second buffer memory is integrated in a programmable memory or connected to the programmable memory. Support for the amendments to claims 1 and 5 may be found, for example, on page 3, lines 30 to 34 of the Specification.

Norman et al. purportedly relate to semiconductor memory systems. Norman et al. state that a "memory system includes a Controller 36 and a plurality of memory devices 38A, 38B and 38C" and that "[t]he memory devices 38A, 38B and 38C are preferably separate integrated circuits utilizing non-volatile memory technology." See Col. 4, lines 48 to 62. Furthermore, Norman et al. state that a memory device 38 includes a tag bus 40 connected to the memory device 38 via five integrated circuit pads which are electrically connected to five input buffers 48. See Col. 5, lines 56 to 64. The buffers of Norman et al. are simply integrated into the circuitry of a memory device of the memory system and are not capable of being connected to the memory device as separate entities. See Figure 4.

Applicants submit that Norman et al. do not disclose, or even suggest, that a buffer memory is integrated into a programmable memory or connected to the

programmable memory, as recited in claims 1 and 5. Therefore, Norman et al. do not disclose all of the limitations of claims 1 and 5.

To anticipate a claim, each and every element as set forth in the claims must be found in a single prior art reference. Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of Calif., 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 U.S.P.Q.2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). Furthermore, "[t]he identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the ... claim." Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co., 868 F.2d 1226, 1236, 9 U.S.P.Q.2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989). That is, the prior art must describe the elements arranged as required by the claims. In re Bond, 910 F.2d 831, 15 U.S.P.Q.2d 1566 (Fed. Cir. 1990). As more fully sent above, it is respectfully submitted that Norman et al. do not disclose, or even suggest, a buffer memory that is integrated into a programmable memory or connected to the programmable memory, as recited in claims 1 and 5. It is therefore respectfully submitted that Norman et al. do not anticipate claims 1 and 5.

As for claims 2 to 4, which depend from claim 1 and therefore include all of the limitations of claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that Norman et al. do not anticipate these dependent claims for at least the reasons submitted above in support of the patentability of claim 1.

As for claims 6 to 8, which depend from claim 5 and therefore include all of the limitations of claim 5, Applicants respectfully submit that Norman et al. do not anticipate these dependent claims for at least the reasons submitted above in support of the patentability of claim 5.

III. Conclusion

It is therefore respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are allowable. All issues raised by the Examiner having been addressed, an early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

KENYON & KENYON

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By: *Richard L. Mayer*

*By: drawing
Pg No 35, 952*
Richard L. Mayer
Reg. No. 22,490

One Broadway
New York, New York 10004
(212) 425-7200

CUSTOMER NO. 26646